



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

DEQ's Computer Donation Project

This year DEQ replaced its Gateway computers with new Dell computers in all of its offices. Working with the Dept of General Services, DEQ was able to establish a donation project for some of these systems, primarily geared to public school systems in Virginia. As of April, the state's electronics surplus contractor was able to process and donate 250 DEQ computers to six public schools and one 501 © (3) non-profit organization.

Recycling in a Revival Mode?

Readers of Governing (April 2005) were presented with a number of views on recycling from the locality perspective. The article states that cities across the country are working to improve their recycling rates, and using some creative ways to encourage participation by residents in the programs. Philadelphia is offering its citizens gift certificates to local retail outlets based upon the weight of recyclables collected. Oakland, California, is providing separate 64-gallon carts for trash, regular recyclables, and yard waste and food scraps.

Seattle requires its trash collectors to check trash put out at the curb for recyclables, and to issue warning tickets to those that don't comply with the recycling rules. Next year the trash won't be picked up if it has recyclables in it. New York City shut down its full-range recycling program last fall, but since has signed a long-term contract for recycling that is expected to save the city money compared to short-term waste removal contracts.

Virginia Shopping Center Recognized

Fair Lakes Promenade, a shopping center in Fairfax County, was awarded the "Best Community Partnership – Small Shopping Center", by the International Council of Shopping Centers for developing a partnership for electronics recycling and used computer donations, collecting 72,000 pounds in one day.

Web Link of interest:

- www.cvwma.com/electronics.htm

Did You Know?

Earth 911 provides communities a forum to post their environmental events, and to get information on a variety of recycling topics. Found at www.earth911.org, this service highlights Earth Day plans in its April newsletter. This free service is sponsored/funded by both public and private sector entities, including Home Depot, HP Computers, ESRI, the Aluminum Association, Vertex Energy, Yellow Book USA, Symantec, Limelight Networks, Syntellect, Dialogic, Protus IP Solutions, Sonexis, EPA and many state environmental organizations.

Looking for educational ideas to promote recycling? Want to know where you can recycle used oil in your community? Need information on the proper management of mercury? All this information and more can be accessed through Earth 911's web site. Please visit the web site and consider registering your program efforts with this service.

Motorola Cell Phone Recycling Initiative

Motorola Inc hopes to collect one million used mobile phones through a fund-raising program that will help schools raise money for scholastic and extracurricular activities. The "Race to Recycle" program will pay accredited K-12 U.S. schools \$3 per intact phone, up to a maximum of \$21,000 for each school year. Motorola will take back all cell phones, regardless of manufacturer.

More information is available at:
www.motorola.com/racetorecycle.

Recycling Markets Development Council (RMDC)

The RMDC met on March 23, 2005 in Abingdon to discuss the Commonwealth's recycling rate reporting program, and to solicit information and comments from local government representatives and the public on how that program might be improved. The RMDC was pleased with the participation at the meeting, and has set two additional dates for this information gathering process. The dates are June 14 – Hampton Roads PSA, and September 21, 2005 at a location in south central Virginia. For other meetings, please check the Commonwealth Calendar listing for information: <http://www.vipnet.org/portal/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi>.

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